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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 TEL AVIV 000649

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

NEA FOR BURNS/SATTERFIELD/DIBBLE;  
NEA/SA/EX FOR RICHIE; DEPT FOR DS/IP/ITA; DEPT FOR  
DS/IP/NEA;  
NSC FOR ABRAMS/DANIN; USAID FOR DCHA, DCHA/FPP, PRM FOR  
DEWEY/GREENE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KWBG PHUM PREL PTER ASEC CASC GZ IS

SUBJECT: WB/G SITREP: ISRAELI POLICEMAN INJURED AND FIVE  
PALESTINIANS ARRESTED IN THE WEST BANK; IN THE GAZA STRIP,  
FIVE MORTAR SHELLS EXPLODED, BUT NO INJURIES OCCURRED.

FEBRUARY 2, 2005 (1300 HOURS LOCAL)

This is a joint ConGen Jerusalem/Embassy Tel Aviv cable.

¶1. (SBU) Summary: An Israeli policeman in the Old City was injured trying to prevent Jewish youth from stoning Arabs, and eight international activists were injured while protesting construction of the separation barrier, on February 1. Five Palestinians were arrested by the IDF in the West Bank February 1. In the Gaza Strip, five mortar shells exploded February 1-2. No injuries were reported.  
End Summary.

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West Bank  
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¶2. (SBU) ATTACKS/SECURITY:

-- Deaths: Nil.  
-- Injury: According to Israeli and Palestinian sources, an Israeli policeman was injured while preventing Jewish youths from throwing stones at Arab youths in the Old City of Jerusalem on February 1.  
-- Injuries: According to Israeli and Palestinian media, eight international activists were lightly injured in clashes with the IDF while protesting the construction of the separation barrier near Hebron on February 1.  
-- Shootings: According to Palestinian sources, shots were fired at an IDF jeep in the Nablus area. No injuries were reported.  
-- Arrests: According to Palestinian reports, IDF units arrested five Palestinians in the Balata refugee camp near Nablus and in Jenin on February 1.  
-- Arrests: According to Israeli and Palestinian reports, four foreign activists were detained by the IDF during protests against the construction of the separation barrier west of Hebron on February 1 (see "Injuries").

¶3. (SBU) CLOSURES

-- According to Palestinian sources, the IDF is still operating in the village of Saida near Tulkarm on February 2, sporadically entering the village and searching the houses.

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Gaza  
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¶4. (SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Deaths: Nil.  
-- Injuries: Nil.  
-- Mortars/Rockets: According to the IDF, Palestinians fired five mortar shells February 1-2, but no injuries occurred. Three mortar shells exploded in Gan Or and one in Netzarim.  
-- Shootings: The IDF reported that a shooting took place overnight on February 2 near Khan Yunis.

-- Explosions: Nil.

¶5. (SBU) INCURSIONS/DEMOLITIONS: Nil.

¶6. (SBU) BORDER CROSSINGS:

-- Route Four (Salahadeen Road), the main north-south traffic artery, was open at Abu Khouli February 2.

-- Erez Crossing was open for internationals and diplomats, but not for Palestinians on February 2.

-- The Erez Industrial Zone remained closed February 2.

-- Sufa Crossing was open for Palestinian laborers February 2, but was open for the import of aggregates used in construction.

-- Karni Terminal was closed February 2.

-- Rafah Terminal was open for arrivals and departures February 2. However, according to UNRWA, Palestinians leaving the Gaza Strip through Rafah need to be over 35 with a residency outside of the Gaza Strip or a medical reason in order to leave.

-- Tel al-Sultan checkpoint was closed February 2. Toufah checkpoint was open for residents of al-Mowassi to depart, but were not allowed to return.

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<http://www.state.sgov/p/nea/telaviv>

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